

OSWALD TAPES

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A top secret tape recording in Lee Harvey Oswald's own words and revealing his Communist ties with Cuba two months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was disclosed to the public here today.

The unedited tape, played only previously for the Warren Commission, also sheds new light on events in New Orleans prior to the death of Kennedy.

The tape was disclosed today by Edward Scannell Butler, executive vice president of the Information Council of the Americas (INCA).

Butler, whose organization is based in New Orleans, debated with Oswald in August, 1963, on Oswald's link with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

In the tape recording, Oswald was questioned concerning how long the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had been organized in New Orleans. He answered:

"We have had members in this area for several months now. Up until about two months ago, however, we have not organized our members into any sort of active group until, as you say, we had decided to feel out the public; what they think of our organization, our aims, and for that purpose we have been distributing literature

on the streets trying to attract new members."

Oswald went on to say that as secretary of the committee he was responsible for keeping records and "protection of the members' names so that undue publicity or attention" would not be drawn to them.

Oswald pointed out emphatically he did not then belong to any other organization, that he was devoting his

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New Oswald Tape Revealed Here

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time exclusively to the FPCC. He indicated that he was not yet convinced that Castro was a Communist.

"He has not had a chance to become a Communist," said Oswald. "He is an experimenter, a person who is trying to find the best way for his country. If he chooses a Socialist or a Marxist or a Communist way of life that is something on which only the Cuban people can pass."

In reply to whether he felt capitalism in any form would again have a place in Cuba, Oswald replied:

"... Cuba is irrevocably lost as far as capitalism goes and there will never be a capitalist regime again in Cuba. It may go the way of China, in other words, a dogmatic Communist system; that depends on how we handle the matter here in the United States."

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The tape recording, which Butler said was turned over this morning to New Orleans, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, also included Oswald's belief that a world trend was developing toward "imperialistic dominated countries adopting socialist solutions — Marxism even, on occasion."

Oswald was asked if he thought the United States ever wanted to help Castro. He replied:

"True to our democratic principles, certain policies were adopted, very late, but adopted, that the government help Fidel Castro while he was still in the mountains. We cut off aid to Batista just before the revolution, but just before it. That was too late. We had already done more harm than we could have done before. We were just rats leaving a sinking ship, you see."

FAIR PLAY

Oswald explained what led him to decide that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had the correct answers



—Herald-Examiner Photo

EDWARD S. BUTLER

about Cuban-U.S. relations in these words:

"Well, of course I have only begun to notice Cuba since the Cuban revolution. That is true of everyone, I think... I always felt that the Cubans were being pushed into the Soviet bloc by American policy. I still feel that way. Our policy, if it had been handled differently and many others (had been) much more informed... we would not have the big problems of Castro's Cuba now."

Oswald made a reference to the Counter-Intelligence Agency as being "defunct." When he was asked to explain, he replied:

"Well, its leadership is now defunct. Allen Dulles is now defunct. I believe that without all that meddling and with a little bit different humanitarian handling of the situation Cuba would not be the problem it is today."